

the CPU 101 stores the changed selection condition of the specified information 300 and selected relation criterion in a history storage area subsequent to the history storage area indicated by the pointer 410 in the history buffer 400, and moves the pointer 410 to the subsequent history storage area (step S114). Then, the CPU 101 returns to the process in step S101.

[0107] If there is no actuation of the triangle button (“No” at step S112), the CPU 101 determines whether there is an actuation of the circle button of the input device 104 (step S115). If there is an actuation of the circle button (“Yes” at step S115), the CPU 101 carries out a process according to the specified information 300 at that instant in time. As this process has no direct relationship to the invention, a detailed description will be omitted. If there is no actuation of the circle button (“No” at step S115), the CPU 101 returns to the process in step S101.

[0108] Hereafter, a description will be given, based on a specific example, of a change in a display mode of the information displayed on the display device 105 in this embodiment. FIGS. 6A to 6H are diagrams specifically showing a change in a display mode of the information displayed on the display device 105 in this embodiment.

[0109] As shown in FIG. 6A, the display device 105 displays 13 items of information each having values of three parameters (X, Y, Z). In FIG. 6A, the values of the parameters (X, Y, Z) of the specified information 300 displayed in the center of the display device 105 are (10, 10, 10), and the selected relation criterion is the y-dimensional relation criterion.

[0110] At this point, the items of information aligned on the selection axis 310, including the specified information 300, are, in order from the top, (10, 12, 10), (10, 11, 10), (10, 10, 10), (10, 9, 10) and (10, 8, 10). The items of information aligned on the non-selection axis 320 are, in order from the top, (12, 10, 10), (11, 10, 10), (10, 10, 10), (9, 10, 10) and (8, 10, 10). Items of information aligned on the non-selection axis 330 are, in order from the top, (10, 10, 12), (10, 10, 11), (10, 10, 10), (10, 10, 9) and (10, 10, 8).

[0111] When the down direction key is actuated on the input device 104 in a condition in which FIG. 6A is displayed on the display device 105, the display mode changes to that as shown in FIG. 6B. In FIG. 6B, the items of information aligned on the selection axis 310 are moved down by one, and the specified information 300 becomes (10, 11, 10), along with which the items of information on the non-selection axes 320 and 330 also change.

[0112] At this point, the items of information aligned on the selection axis 310, including the specified information 300, are, in order from the top, (10, 13, 10), (10, 12, 10), (10, 11, 10), (10, 10, 10) and (10, 9, 10). The items of information aligned on the non-selection axis 320 are, in order from the top, (12, 11, 10), (11, 11, 10), (10, 11, 10), (9, 11, 10) and (8, 11, 10). The items of information aligned on the non-selection axis 330 are, in order from the top, (10, 11, 12), (10, 11, 11), (10, 11, 10), (10, 11, 9) and (10, 11, 8).

[0113] Next, when the right direction key is actuated on the input device 104 in a condition in which FIG. 6B is displayed on the display device 105, the display mode changes to that as shown in FIG. 6C. In FIG. 6C, although the specified information 300 remains (10, 11, 10), the

selected relation criterion of the selection axis 310 becomes the x-dimensional relation criterion, and the relation criteria of the non-selection axes 320 and 330 become the z-dimensional and y-dimensional relation criteria, respectively.

[0114] At this point, items of information aligned on the selection axis 310, including the specified information 300, are, in order from the top, (12, 11, 10), (11, 11, 10), (10, 11, 10), (9, 11, 10) and (8, 11, 10). The items of information aligned on the non-selection axis 320 are, in order from the top, (10, 11, 12), (10, 11, 11), (10, 11, 10), (10, 11, 9) and (10, 11, 8). The items of information aligned on the non-selection axis 330 are, in order from the top, (10, 13, 10), (10, 12, 10), (10, 11, 10), (10, 10, 10) and (10, 9, 10).

[0115] Next, when the up direction key is actuated on the input device 104 in a condition in which FIG. 6C is displayed on the display device 105, the display mode changes to that as shown in FIG. 6D. In FIG. 6D, the items of information aligned on the selection axis 310 are moved up by one, and the specified information 300 becomes (9, 11, 10), along with which the items of information on the selection axes 320 and 330 also change.

[0116] At this point, items of information aligned on the selection axis 310, including the specified information 300, are, in order from the top, (11, 11, 10), (10, 11, 10), (9, 11, 10), (8, 11, 10) and (7, 11, 10). The items of information aligned on the non-selection axis 320 are, in order from the top, (9, 11, 12), (9, 11, 11), (9, 11, 10), (9, 11, 9) and (9, 11, 8). The items of information aligned on the non-selection axis 330 are, in order from the top, (9, 13, 10), (9, 12, 10), (9, 11, 10), (9, 10, 10) and (9, 9, 10).

[0117] Next, when the X-button is actuated on the input device 104 in a condition in which FIG. 6D is displayed on the display device 105, the previous history is retrieved and the same display mode as that in FIG. 6C is displayed on the display device 105, as shown in FIG. 6E.

[0118] Next, when the square button is actuated on the input device 104 when FIG. 6E is displayed on the display device 105, as shown in FIG. 6F, the display mode does not change from the condition shown in FIG. 6E, but the information (10, 11, 10) selected as the specified information 300 at the time the square button is actuated and the x-dimensional relation criterion selected as the selected relation criterion are recorded in the bookmark buffer 420.

[0119] After that, a display mode as that shown in FIG. 6G may be displayed in response to an actuation of the other buttons, other than the square button of the input device 104. When the triangle button is actuated on the input device 104 when FIG. 6G is displayed on the display device 105, the information (10, 11, 10) and x-dimensional relation criterion stored in the bookmark buffer 420 becomes the new specified information 300 and selected relation criterion. Accordingly, as shown in FIG. 6H, the display mode when the user actuated the square button of the input device 104, that is, the display mode shown in FIG. 6E, is restored on the display device 105.

[0120] As described heretofore, in the first embodiment, the specified information 300 is displayed in the center of the display device 105. Other items of information relating to this specified information 300 in accordance with the values of three parameters X, Y and Z are displayed in other positions, other than the center, on the display device 105. At